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## FACTS FOR TRUSTEES

The trend of affairs in the library business may always be fairly well indicated by new legislation. Perhaps the laws proposed in various states may be an equally good indication.

Here is a summary of proposed legislation as reported at the annual meeting of the League of Library Commissions in Chicago, December 28-29, 1920.

**Connecticut**—State Board of Education is planning to draft a bill for pension of teachers which should include pension of librarians.

**Illinois**—The question of pensions for librarians is not to be taken up until the present pension system relating to other positions has been put upon a more satisfactory basis. A bill for certification of librarians should be introduced into the state legislature.

**Indiana**—Library Commission is asking for 50 per cent increase in appropriations, also for an amendment to the county library law.

**Iowa**—Library Commission asking for 50 per cent increase in appropriations, also considering asking for an increase in maximum tax for the public libraries; but all libraries are not receiving the present maximum tax. The work in the libraries of state institutions has lapsed. Propose to ask for a new supervisor.

**Massachusetts**—Has asked for a large increase in appropriations for Commission.

**Minnesota**—Entire revision of all library laws. The new code will include certification of librarians and state aid for libraries.

**Missouri**—Will introduce a county library bill. They have their forces better organized this year, and hope to secure the passing of the bill.

**Nebraska**—Asking for larger appropriations for Library Commission.

**North Dakota**—Will introduce a county library bill.

**Pennsylvania**—Reported that last Legislature changed the Library Commission from a separate Commission to a Library Extension Division of the State Library and Museum. They are asking for increased appropriation this year.

**Wisconsin**—Will introduce a bill for certification of librarians.

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Most library laws permit or require levies of a certain "rate" on the dollar, or on the hundred dollars. In the Province of Ontario, Canada, a law recently enacted provides for a per capita basis for libraries. The city council, under this law, must levy a tax estimated to yield 50 cents per capita if the library board so requests, and may, by vote, levy a rate that will yield 75 cents per capita.

In the United States, many libraries receive much more than 75 cents per capita, while others receive far less than Ontario's minimum.

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### A LIBRARY EFFICIENCY TEST

Is your library paying dividends?

To help any library board answer that question for its own library, a "Library efficiency test" has been prepared. (A. L. A. Headquarters, 25 cents.) It has been printed in 12 large pages, with blanks for the facts about the library in question. The main headings are: Building, Book collection, Local history material, Finances, Extension, Organization, Hours of opening, Publicity, Trustees, Staff, and Summary.

The author, of the scheme, Miss Julia A. Robinson of the Iowa Library Commission, says "it is suggested as a method by which a library board may be able to examine its library and reach some conclusion as to whether it is paying sufficient dividends upon the investment made by the donors of the building and the taxpayers who are supporting it."

Continuing, Miss Robinson says "The value of this test will depend upon the

amount of information possessed by the library board on library buildings, library administration and library matters in general, and can be used to best advantage in conference with a librarian conversant with these subjects.

"The measure of the efficiency of any library must be the measure of its usefulness, all else being plant and machinery and operations contributing to that end. Much of the usefulness of a library cannot be measured in figures but circulation is generally taken as the best method of showing the use of a library.

"By it the increase or decrease in the books leaving the library can be shown as well as the per capita of books read by the population of the town. The latter furnishes a means of comparison between libraries, but this comparison is only useful for towns of the same size, as the per capita circulation increases with a decrease in the size of a town. The same is true of the per capita income and the volumes per capita in the book collection."

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In Indiana the members of library boards have their own state organization, known as the Indiana Library Trustees Association. It meets annually, sometimes at the same time and place as the Indiana Library Association, sometimes at a different time and place. Apparently it has been more successful than any trustees section of a state library association. The officers for 1920-21 are: President, Edmond L. Craig, Evansville; secretary, M. H. Krauss, Hammond.

#### SPECIAL RATES ON THE BOOKLIST

Increased income and reduced costs will decrease the anticipated deficit of The Booklist in 1921 to less than \$2,000.

The Publishing Board wishes to eliminate the deficit entirely, so that none of the income from the Carnegie Endowment will go into this practical and widely-used publication. It hopes to do this without further increase in price.

The only feasible alternative is to get more subscribers. We now have over 4,000. On the basis of present costs, 6,000 will make it self-supporting.

The Publishing Board has therefore decided to offer, from now until July 1st, a special rate of \$1.50 for new subscriptions for the first year.

Additional subscriptions placed by present subscribers will be accepted at the special rate.

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#### SALE, EXCHANGE, WANTS, OFFERS

Any library member of the Association may insert, without cost, a ten-line notice of books or periodicals wanted, for sale or exchange.

#### WANTS

**Engineering Societies Library, 24 West 39th St., New York City.**

The Engineering Societies Library is anxious to obtain one or two copies of the *Manuel du Répertoire Bibliographique Universal*. Brussels: Institut International de Bibliographie. Anyone having a copy for sale or knowing where one can be found, will please communicate with the Director of the Library.

**American Library Association, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago.**

Marvin's Small Library Buildings.

#### FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

**Grand Rapids (Mich.) Public Library.**

*Ballantyne, Robert M. Hudson's Bay: or everyday life in the wilds of N. America. 1859.* Boston. Phillips, Sampson.

*Brackenridge, H. M. Voyage to Buenos Ayres, 1817-1818, by order of the American Government. 1820.* London. Phillips.

*Carey, M. Olive branch: or faults on both sides, federal and democratic. 10th ed. improved. 1818.*

*Comte, Auguste. Positive philosophy, tr. & cond. by H. Martineau. 1858.* N. Y. Blanchard.

*De Maulde la Claviere, R. Women of the Renaissance, a study of feminism, tr. by G. H. Ely. 1900.* N. Y. Putnam.

**Iowa Library Commission, Des Moines, Iowa.**

Would be glad to exchange vol. 1 of Taussig's "Principles of Economics," received from the A. L. A. book distribution, for vol. 2, and will pay postage.